

Further notes on the north-eastern Greenland race of the Dunlin from Eire and Kent

by James M. Harrison & Jeffery G. Harrison

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In 1967 we recorded 15 examples of Schiøler's Dunlin *Calidris alpina arctica* Schiøler, the very distinctive small billed race which breeds in north-east Greenland, the first to be recorded for the British Isles (Harrison & Harrison, 1967). All were from south east-England, apparently as passage migrants on dates between 14th May and 7th June, and 7th July and 17th September. Subsequent to this note, the first specimen of this race has been identified from Eire, an example in the National Museum, Dublin, obtained on North Bull Island on 18th May 1893 (*Irish Bird Report*, 1969: 38).

The winter quarters of this race are still undefined, so it is of considerable interest to record a second Irish example, a female, found dead under telegraph wires on 8th March 1970, beside the Swords Estuary, Co. Dublin, and sent to us by Major R. F. Rutledge. The bill measurements of the specimen fall well within those of *C. a. arctica*, as follows:—from feather margin 28.5 mm, and from anterior edge of nostril 25 mm. The bird is in winter plumage with some early development of the dark shaft centres of spring on the upper mantle and breast.

Although this is so far the only recognised example in winter plumage, further examples will be needed to disclose any plumage difference with other races, such as are easily demonstrated in the breeding and juvenile plumages in this form. The present specimen may either have been a wintering bird or possibly one on early spring passage.

We can record two further specimens from Kent. The first, a female, was obtained on 21st August 1970, and the second, a male, on 4th September 1970, both on the Medway Estuary. Their respective bill measurements from the nostril were:—♀ 23 mm, ♂ 21.5.

Acknowledgements: We are most grateful to Major R. F. Rutledge for giving us the specimen from the Swords Estuary, and to Mr. W. Moulant, on whose land the other two specimens were collected. These latter two were obtained under a research permit issued through the Nature Conservancy.

References:

- Harrison, J. M. & Harrison, J. G. 1967. The occurrence of Schiøler's Dunlin in south-eastern England; a race new to the British Isles. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 87: 142-148.
Rutledge, R. F. (Ed.). 1969. *Irish Bird Report*.

Postscript: Another Eire specimen of *C. alpina arctica* was reported by one of us, J. G. H., in *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 1969: 104-105—an immature female from Derrymore, Co. Kerry 4th October, 1968.

Migration in the Dahlac Archipelago and the neighbouring mainland of Ethiopia, autumn 1962

by Clive F. Mann

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Introduction

From 14th August to 17th September 1962, C. S. Clapham, A. B. Hawley, R. Stjernstedt and the author, whose combined notes are used in this account, were in the Ethiopian province of Eritrea for the purpose of